

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed December 12, 2005. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Claims 15 and 26 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this Application.

The Examiner has requested that further prosecution of the Application be restricted to one of two groups of invention. Invention Group I, including Claims 1-14 and 25, is identified by the Examiner as being drawn to a playing surface structure. Invention Group II, including Claims 15-24 and 26, is identified as being drawn to a method of making a playing surface. The Examiner has indicated that Invention Group I is distinct from Invention Group II in that the playing surface structure of Invention Group I can be made without the substrate provided by Invention Group II. To overcome this, Independent Claims 15 and 26 have been amended to eliminate recitation of the substrate. Accordingly, Invention Group I is no longer distinct from Invention Group II. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the requirement for election/restriction is now moot. In the event the Examiner persists in maintaining the Election/Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects to pursue Invention Group I in this Application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles S. Fish', written over a horizontal line.

Charles S. Fish

Reg. No. 35,870

January 12, 2006

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